## CLAIMS

1. A method for representing an active computing environment comprising:

encapsulating one or more active processes into said active computing environment; and

encapsulating a system environment relating to said processes into said active computing environment.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said system environment comprises an associated state of said active processes.

3. The method of claim 2 further comprising:

removing a process from said active computing environment when said process becomes inactive.

4. The method of claim 4 further comprising:

adding a process to said active computing environment when said process becomes active.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

halting said active computing environment.

6. The method of claim 5 further comprising:

storing said active computing environment off-line in a non-volatile storage medium.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said non-volatile storage medium is a disk.

8. The method of claim 2 wherein said state further comprises a CPU state.

9. The method of claim 2 wherein said state further comprises a file system state.

10. The method of claim 2 wherein said state further comprises a device state.

11. The method of claim 2 wherein said state further comprises a virtual memory state.

12. The method of claim 2 wherein said state further comprises an inter-process communication state.

13. A representation of an active computing environment comprising:

one or more processes; and

a system environment relating to said processes.

14. The representation of claim 13 wherein said system environment comprises an associated state of said processes.

15. The representation of claim 14 further comprising:

a first modifier configured to remove a process from said active computing environment when said process becomes inactive.

16. The representation of claim 15 further comprising:

a second modifier configured to add a process to said active computing environment when said process becomes active.

17. The representation of claim 13 further comprising:

a mechanism configured to halt said active computing environment.

18. The representation of claim 17 further comprising:

a non-volatile storage medium configured to store said active computing environment off-line.

19. The representation of claim 18 wherein said non-volatile storage medium is a disk.

20. The representation of claim 14 wherein said state further comprises a CPU state.

21. The representation of claim 14 wherein said state further comprises a file system state.

22. The representation of claim 14 wherein said state further comprises a device state.

23. The representation of claim 14 wherein said state further comprises a virtual memory state.

24. The representation of claim 14 wherein said state further comprises an inter-process communication state.

25. A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein configured to represent an active computing environment, said computer program product comprising:

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to encapsulate one or more active processes into said active computing environment; and

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to encapsulate a system environment relating to said active processes into said active computing environment.

26. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein said system environment comprises an associated state of said active processes.

27. The computer program product of claim 26 further comprising:

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to remove a process from said active computing environment when said process becomes inactive.

28. The computer program product of claim 27 further comprising:

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to add a process to said active computing environment when said process becomes active.

29. The computer program product of claim 25 further comprising:

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to halt said active computing environment.

30. The computer program product of claim 29 further comprising:

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to store said active computing environment off-line in a non-volatile storage medium.

31. The computer program product of claim 30 wherein said non-volatile storage medium is a disk.

32. The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said state further comprises a CPU state.

33. The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said state further comprises a file system state.

34. The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said state further comprises a device state.

35. The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said state further comprises a virtual memory state.

36. The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said state further comprises an inter-process communication state.